

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed August 20, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 1-22 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 23-50 have been added to the present application.

In the August 20, 2003 Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,703 issued to Knight et al. (hereinafter "Knight") either alone or in combination with one or more of the following:

U.S. Patent No. 6,463,434 issued to Zhai (hereinafter "Zhai"),
U.S. Patent No. 6,070,160 issued to Geary (hereinafter "Geary"), and
U.S. Patent No. 6,493,695 issued to Pickering et al. (hereinafter "Pickering").

Knight, Zhai, Geary, and Pickering are collectively referred to hereafter as "the cited references."

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled from the present application, thereby rendering the rejection of claims 1-22 moot.

As discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 23-50 are patentable over the cited references. For example, taking claim 23 as an example:

23. A method comprising:
recognizing a change to content of a user-populated group, said content of the user-populated group comprising identifiers of a first set of items stored in memory;
generating a query in response to the change, said query being based on characteristics of the first set of items;
applying the query to an item space to identify a second set of items; and
populating a second group with identifiers of the second set of items.

In claim 23, a user-populated group contains identifiers to a set of items stored in memory. If the content of the user-populated group changes, claim 23 generates a query based on the characteristics of the set of items identified in the user-populated group. The query is applied to an item space to identify a second set of items, and a second group is populated with identifiers for that the second set of items.

In other words, when the user-populated group of identifiers is changed, claim 23 uses the characteristics from the items identified in the user-populated group to identify another group of items. For example, as discussed in the specification, a user can identify samples of the kinds of items in which he or she is interested, and an embodiment of claim 23 can use characteristics of those sample items to identify related items.

Knight, in contrast, is directed to a hierarchical organization of messages based on a three pane window (Figure 3B). One window pane 315 displays a list

316 of parameters 317 for filtering messages. When a user selects one of the parameters 317, a second window pane 320 lists messages 325 that correspond to the selected parameter. When a user selects one of the messages 325, a third window pane 340 displays the content of the message.

Applicant respectfully submits that Knight has nothing whatsoever to do with sample-based querying. Therefore, Applicant suggests that Knight does not suggest, disclose, or enable “generating a query in response to” ... “a change to content of a user-populated group,” “applying the query to an item space to identify a second set of items,” and “populating a second group with identifiers of the second set of items,” as claimed in new claim 23.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the other cited references, either alone or combined, cure the deficiency of Knight discussed above.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 23 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to claim 23 similarly applies to claim 37. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 37 is likewise patentable over the cited references.

Given that claims 24-36 depend from claim 23, and claims 38-50 depend from claim 37, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-36 and 38-50 are likewise over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

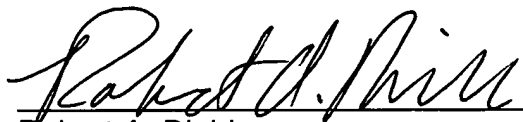
In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-50 are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

INTEL CORPORATION

Date: 12/22, 2003


Robert A. Diehl
Reg. No. 40,992

INTEL LEGAL
SC4-202
P.O. Box 5326
Santa Clara, CA 95056-5326
Phone: (503) 712-1880
FAX: (503) 264-1729